

Appl. No. 09/967,029  
Amdt. dated November 13, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003 (paper no. 13)

PATENT

**REMARKS**


The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,498 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,422. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the intrathoracic pressure is reduced by spontaneous breathing of the patient while preventing or inhibiting respiratory gas flow to the lungs with the valve system (Application, p. 2, ll. 5 – 7). Further amendments have been made to certain claims consistent with this amendment. Examination of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patrick M. Boucher  
Reg. No. 44,037

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 303-571-4000  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
PMB:pmb  
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